

Sinclair's decision to compel its affiliate stations to run a special showing of "Stolen Honor: Wounds That Never Heal" is an attempt to smear John Kerry within a couple of weeks of a presidential election. This is self-serving and shameful. Clearly, Sinclair has an agenda, and is using publicly own airwaves to advance it.

What makes this unacceptable is that Sinclair's broadcast holdings reach nearly 1/4 of the households in the country, and therefore may likely have a very real influence on the election. Their lack of balance and self-moderation is unacceptable.

Sinclair Broadcast Group's recent actions have illustrated the dangers to localism caused by media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.